Claims

We claim:

1.   A computer-implemented method for executing a test executive sequence,
the method comprising:

executing a first test executive sequence, wherein the first test executive sequence
calls a second test executive sequence;

executing the second test executive sequence in response to said executing the
first test executive sequence, wherein the second test executive sequence executes
asynchronously from the first test executive sequence.

2.   The method of claim 1,

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence and said executing the
second test executive sequence comprise performing one or more tests of a unit under test
(UUT).

3.   The method of claim 1,

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence and said executing the
second test executive sequence comprise interacting with one or more hardware devices
to test a unit under test (UUT).

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein said executing the second test executive
sequence comprises calling the second test executive sequence, the method further
comprising:

after said calling the second test executive sequence, executing at least a portion
of the first test executive sequence without waiting for the second test executive sequence
to be executed.

5.   The method of claim 1,

wherein the first test executive sequence comprises a first plurality of test
executive steps;

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence comprises executing the first plurality of test executive steps;

wherein one or more of the first plurality of test executive steps are executed after beginning execution of the second test executive sequence and without waiting for execution of the second test executive sequence to be completed.

6.   The method of claim 5,

wherein the first test executive sequence comprises a sequence call step that calls the second test executive sequence;

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence comprises executing the sequence call step;

wherein said executing the second test executive sequence is performed in response to said executing the sequence call step.

7.   The method of claim 1,

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence is performed by a first thread;

wherein said executing the second test executive sequence is performed by a second thread;

wherein the second thread is not the same thread as the first thread.

8.   The method of claim 1,

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence is performed on a first computer system;

wherein said executing the second test executive sequence is performed on a second computer system coupled to the first computer system.

9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

creating the first test executive sequence in response to user input;

wherein said creating the first test executive sequence comprises configuring the first test executive sequence to asynchronously call the second test executive sequence in response to user input.

5   10.   The method of claim 9,

wherein said configuring the first test executive sequence to asynchronously call the second test executive sequence in response to user input comprises including a subsequence call step in the first test executive sequence and configuring the subsequence call step to asynchronously call the second test executive sequence, in response to user

10   input.

11.   The method of claim 10, further comprising:

configuring a portion of the first test executive sequence to execute after the second test executive sequence completes execution, in response to user input;

15   wherein said creating the first test executive sequence comprises including a plurality of steps after the sequence call step in response to user input, wherein the plurality of steps comprises a first subset of steps and a second subset of steps;

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence comprises:

executing the subsequence call step, wherein said executing the second

20   test executive sequence is performed in response to said executing the subsequence call step;

executing the first subset of steps without waiting for the second test executive sequence to complete execution;

waiting for the second test executive sequence to complete execution, in

25   response to said configuring the portion of the first test executive sequence to execute after the second test executive sequence completes execution;

executing the second subset of steps after the second test executive sequence completes execution.

30   12.   The method of claim 11,

wherein said configuring the portion of the first test executive sequence to execute after the second test executive sequence completes execution comprises including a wait step in the first test executive sequence before the second subset of steps, in response to user input, wherein the wait step is operable to wait for the second test executive sequence to complete execution.

13. The method of claim 1,

wherein the first test executive sequence includes a wait step;

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence includes executing the wait step;

wherein the wait step is operable to wait for execution of the second test executive sequence to complete and retrieve execution results of the second test executive sequence.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

in response to user input, configuring the first test executive sequence to wait for execution of the second test executive sequence to complete before returning;

receiving a programmatic call to the first test executive sequence to initiate said executing the first test executive sequence;

wherein, in performing said executing the first test executive sequence and said executing the second test executive sequence, execution of the first test executive sequence completes before execution of the second test executive sequence completes;

wherein the method further comprises:

after execution of the first test executive sequence completes, waiting for execution of the second test executive sequence to complete before returning from the programmatic call to the first test executive sequence.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

configuring a portion of the first test executive sequence to execute after the second test executive sequence completes execution, in response to user input.

16. A computer-implemented method for asynchronously executing a test executive sequence, the method comprising:

5   including a plurality of steps in a first test executive sequence in response to user input, wherein the plurality of steps includes a first step operable to asynchronously call a second test executive sequence;

executing the first test executive sequence, wherein said executing the first test executive sequence comprises executing the first step, wherein said executing the first

10   step comprises asynchronously calling the second test executive sequence;

executing the second test executive sequence in response to said asynchronously calling the second test executive sequence, wherein the second test executive sequence executes asynchronously from the first test executive sequence.

15   17. The method of claim 16,

wherein the plurality of steps includes a first subset of steps before the first step and a second subset of steps after the first step;

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence comprises:

executing the first subset of steps;

20   executing the first step, wherein said executing the first step comprises asynchronously calling the second test executive sequence;

executing the second subset of steps without waiting for the second test executive sequence to execute.

25

18. A memory medium for executing a test executive sequence, the memory medium comprising program instructions operable to:

execute a first test executive sequence, wherein the first test executive sequence

30   calls a second test executive sequence;

execute the second test executive sequence in response to said executing the first test executive sequence, wherein the second test executive sequence executes asynchronously from the first test executive sequence.

5   19.   The memory medium of claim 18,

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence and said executing the second test executive sequence comprise performing one or more tests of a unit under test (UUT).

10   20.   The memory medium of claim 18, wherein said executing the second test executive sequence comprises calling the second test executive sequence, the memory medium further comprising program instructions operable to:

after said calling the second test executive sequence, execute at least a portion of the first test executive sequence without waiting for the second test executive sequence to be executed.

15

21.   The memory medium of claim 18,

wherein the first test executive sequence comprises a first plurality of test executive steps;

20   wherein said executing the first test executive sequence comprises executing the first plurality of test executive steps;

wherein one or more of the first plurality of test executive steps are executed after beginning execution of the second test executive sequence and without waiting for execution of the second test executive sequence to be completed.

25

22.   The memory medium of claim 21,

wherein the first test executive sequence comprises a sequence call step that calls the second test executive sequence;

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence comprises executing the sequence call step;

30   sequence call step;

wherein said executing the second test executive sequence is performed in response to said executing the sequence call step.

23.   The memory medium of claim 18,

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence is performed by a first thread;

wherein said executing the second test executive sequence is performed by a second thread;

wherein the second thread is not the same thread as the first thread.

24.   The memory medium of claim 18,

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence is performed on a first computer system;

wherein said executing the second test executive sequence is performed on a second computer system coupled to the first computer system.

25.   A memory medium for asynchronously executing a test executive sequence, the memory medium comprising program instructions operable to:

include a plurality of steps in a first test executive sequence in response to user input, wherein the plurality of steps includes a first step operable to asynchronously call a second test executive sequence;

execute the first test executive sequence, wherein said executing the first test executive sequence comprises executing the first step, wherein said executing the first step comprises asynchronously calling the second test executive sequence;

execute the second test executive sequence in response to said asynchronously calling the second test executive sequence, wherein the second test executive sequence executes asynchronously from the first test executive sequence.

26.   The memory medium of claim 25,

wherein the plurality of steps includes a first subset of steps before the first step and a second subset of steps after the first step;

wherein said executing the first test executive sequence comprises:

executing the first subset of steps;

5   executing the first step, wherein said executing the first step comprises asynchronously calling the second test executive sequence;

executing the second subset of steps without waiting for the second test executive sequence to execute.

10

27.   A system for executing a test executive sequence, the system comprising:

a processor;

a memory medium storing a first test executive sequence and a second test executive sequence;

15   wherein the processor is operable to execute the first test executive sequence, wherein the first test executive sequence calls a second test executive sequence;

wherein the processor is operable to execute the second test executive sequence in response to said first test executive sequence calling the second test executive sequence;

wherein the second test executive sequence is executed asynchronously from the

20   first test executive sequence.